

Amendment to the Abstract

Please replace the abstract with the following:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A central entity and/or a remote device in a communication system are designed to address the problem of maintaining upstream synchronization in the remote device after loss of the downstream signal. The system maintains upstream transmissions from the remote device in a Synchronous-Code Division Multiple Access (S-CDMA) or perhaps Synchronous-Time Division Multiple Access (S-TDMA) mode that does not degrade performance caused by via poor upstream timing or a need for re-ranging. By providing novel functionality at the central entity for synchronizing first and second downstream signals and/or by providing novel functionality at the remote device for determining a symbol clock offset between a first terminated downstream signal and a second re-acquired downstream signal, embodiments of the present invention maintain synchronization through the loss of the downstream signal, thereby minimizing the need for re-ranging and avoiding poorly timed upstream bursts.